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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2001 LB 305, 543

herring in this debate this morning because a lot of what we are talking about is...is not directly related particularly to this bill and we're getting hung up on what's going to happen on LB 305, concerns about certain school districts, issues about teachers themselves and how effective they are, none of which I've agreed with, but I...I've resisted the temptation to engage on those. But I don't think, at this point, we should chase this particular amendment. I think we vote this up or down. I think we keep the proposal as it...as it was passed last year. I don't see any reason to get off track and whittle this down with this amount of money. I think we...saving that to deal with the teacher salary issue, it's a minimal amount and it would be more effective spent for...to keep this bill whole to address the tuition issue at our state institutions that have teacher training programs. And, with that, I would oppose the bill. If you...depending on how long...oh, I guess we're going to talk a little longer. I'm going to come back. I have more e-mails from school districts around the state listing the shortage areas that they're experiencing now that I just mentioned again as to why I think it's important we pass this bill. We need to encourage people and reward them for going into teaching in Nebraska. We want to encourage high quality teachers and this is a means to do it, and it's a means to do it today. So, with that, I will close and hit my light for a little more discussion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. We are discussing FA216, the Chambers amendment to LB 543. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, it is very ironic that the lady in red is the one who would talk about red herrings. (Laughter) Nevertheless, there are sometimes Freudian slips that occur. Members of the Legislature, Senator Thompson said we should not whittle this down. This is not whittling down. There is nothing in the program now. There is nothing. My amendment would make \$2,000 available for each person who would apply for a loan. Money would still be put into a program where right now there is nothing. Senator Raikes pointed out to me that a person, to qualify for one of these loans, must already be in Nebraska in